**Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar**: Thank you, Sir, for your assurance. One word about the industries which are considered to be money crops. The position of tea and rubber, I humbly beg to point out, is not so favourable as is envisaged in the speech of the Financial Secretary or in your speech. In fact the tea and rubber planters have various difficulties which they have to face and solve. One of the most serious difficulties is in the matter of the supply of rice. Thanks to the efforts of this Government, supply was attempted for three or four months.

**President**: What about the dividends that they are declaring?

**Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar**: The dividends for 1943 are yet to be seen. Thanks to the restriction schemes for tea and rubber, the industries were protected from being uneconomic, but on account of the difficulties of labour, extraordinary cost of transport and other things, my submission is that the tea and rubber estates should not be taxed too much.

**President**: Order, order. As it is 4 O'clock, we will take up the short notice motion.

## MOTION REGARDING EXPUNGING MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI'S SPEECH.

**President**: Before calling upon Mr. Fletcher to move his motion, though normally speaking the debates would stop at half past five, I propose to sit till six so that the full time allotted for discussion of the general demand may be devoted.

**Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar**: I may make a suggestion that the resolution may be recorded and not pressed.

**Mr. James Fletcher**: This resolution..... ...

An honourable member: I have not got a copy of the resolution.

**President**: The resolution is this:

> "This House being of the opinion that the attacks levelled against the representative character of the House and against the Head of the Administration in the speech of Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi are unjustified and malicious, resolves that his speech may be expunged from the official record of the proceedings of the House."

I received notice of an amendment to this effect and the House, being of the opinion that the attacks against the head of the administration were made in his individual capacity, resolved that these proceedings may be expunged from the official records of this House. I trust honourable members will not speak for more than five minutes each.



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**Mr. James Fletcher**: We have all heard the speech of the honourable member this day. To begin with, I may say that the portion regarding the unrepresentative character of the non-officials is a wrong statement. The non-official members of this House do represent their constituencies. To say that they are unrepresentative, is affecting the dignity of this House. Even my honourable friend, Mr. Tampi, will not dare to say that this House does not represent the constituencies which elected these members.

Then, with reference to the other insinuations, my submission is that, to state in an open House like this where we are expected to observe certain decorum, the whole speech which the honourable member made is highly objectionable.

**Mr. T. Krishna Pillai**: One observation. The resolution intends to expunge the speech of Mr. Tampi from the proceedings of the Legislature. Now, the manner in which Mr. Fletcher is moving the resolution brings out all the details of the wordings and expressions used in the objectionable speech.

**President**: That is a matter for discretion. Honourable members are entitled to point out by repeating those observations, whether Mr. Fletcher is right in moving for the expunging.

**Mr. James Fletcher**: The words used are not worthy to be kept in the records of the proceedings of this House. The words are so mixed up with the rest of the whole speech, that not only the words but the whole speech ought to be expunged from the proceedings. That is my submission.

**Mr. V. Sankara Menon** (*Trivandrum and Nedumangad cum Chirayinkil*): In supporting this resolution, I just want to say that this speech does not deserve to be in the proceedings of this House for the simple reason that the points raised in the speech are not correct. I may say that the Government that we are now having in this country.....

**President**: Order, order. It is not in order to move for the expunging of a speech on the ground that the statements made in that speech are not correct. It is in order to move the motion to expunge a speech only on the ground that the speech lowers the dignity of the House or lowers the standard of etiquette of the House.

**Mr. V. Sankara Menon**: I was just going to say that the speech, in addition to being incorrect, certainly lowers the dignity of a respectable House like this and it also contains malicious statements which this House cannot allow to be included in its proceedings.

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**Mr. M. Govindan**: I wish to know whether, if the honourable member Mr. Tampi agrees to withdraw his speech, there is any necessity to press this motion?

Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi did not withdraw his speech.

**Mr. V. Sankara Menon**: As there is no withdrawal, I have only to press the motion. We are having a most responsible Government in this country and those at the helm of affairs of this State are ever anxious for the welfare of the subjects. I may say that all the 24 hours of a day of our Most Gracious Sovereign are spent in the thought of the betterment of his subjects. What better form of Government can any people in any country have? So this statement is malicious. And also to say that we, as members of this honourable House together are not representatives of the people at this time of complete co-operation for solving the food problem is a statement which we cannot tolerate. For these reasons, I support the motion.

**Mr. T. Krishna Pillai**: I support the motion. In the vituperative eloquence of Mr. Tampi, he, despite himself, made certain assertions whereby he has cast unworthy reflections on the prestige of this House. Sir, this House is a sufficiently representative body, and if we are to look into the history of the representative institutions of this State, we find, for certain, that no other administration has been so responsive to the demands of the people as the present administration. I am sure Mr. Tampi will have no great hesitation or objection in admitting this fact. Since I do not consider it essential to dilate and comment upon his speech in detail, I simply support the motion.

**Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar**: I too support the motion.

**Mr. M. Govindan**: I support the motion. Mr. Tampi is a very close friend of mine and I never thought that he would overstep the limits in this manner. I am sure the observation which he has let slip must have been shocking to himself and I hope he will gladly take this opportunity to withdraw his speech. It is with that object in view that I put the question when my honourable friend, Mr. Menon, was speaking. And it is with that object that I support this motion.

**Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan**: സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതൻ മി. ബാലകൃഷ്ണൻതമ്പിയുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഈ സഭയെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ജനതാമദ്ധ്യത്തിൽ അവിശ്വാസം ജനിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും, ഇന്നത്തെ ഭരണകൂടത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് അവജ്ഞയുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനും പര്യാപ്തങ്ങളായ പ്രസ്താവനകളാണ് അടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നത്. അന്തസ്സാരവിഹീനമായിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ പ്രസ്താവങ്ങൾ നമ്മുടെ കൗൺസിലിന്റെ നടപടിപുസ്തകം

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[Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan.]

മുഖേന വെളിവാക്കുവാൻ ഇടവന്നപക്ഷം ഞാൻ മേൽപറഞ്ഞപ്രകാരമുള്ള ഒരഭിപ്രായവ്യത്യാസം ജനതാമദ്ധ്യത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു യാതൊരു തർക്കവുമില്ലാ. എന്നുമാത്രമല്ലാ, ലോകത്തിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ ഒരു മാതൃകയായി ഭരണം നടത്തുന്നവെന്ന പ്രഖ്യാതി സമ്പാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ സൽപ്പേരിന് ഇതു് ഹാനികരമായിരിക്കുകയുംചെയ്യും. അസാധാരണ പരിതഃസ്ഥിതികളിൽപ്പോലും സഭ ജനസാമാന്യത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ചെയ്യുന്ന സേവനങ്ങൾ യാതൊരുതരത്തിലും എതിർക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടില്ലാത്തനിലയ്ക്ക് സഭയ്ക്ക് പ്രാതിനിധ്യാവകാശമില്ലെന്നുള്ള വാദം തൽമുഖേന തന്നെ ശിഥിലീകൃതമായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഉപദേശകസമിതികളുടെ ശുപവൽക്കരണംകൊണ്ടും, നിയമസമിതികളുടെ വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങൾ സ്വീകരിച്ച് പ്രായോഗികമാക്കുന്നതിന് ഗവണ്മെന്റു കാണിക്കുന്ന സന്നദ്ധതകൊണ്ടും കൂടുതൽ കൂടുതൽ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വബോധത്തോടുകൂടി ഈ ഗവണ്മെന്റു ഭരണം നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്നവെന്നുള്ളതു നിരാക്ഷേപമായിട്ടുള്ള പരമാർത്ഥമാകുന്നു. ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം എന്ന പേരിൽ ഭരണസംപ്രദായം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടില്ലെങ്കിലും, ഏകദേശമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണസംപ്രദായമാണ്, ഇന്നു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ നിലകൊള്ളുന്നതെന്നു് ഭരണകൂടത്തെ അടുത്തറിയുന്ന യഥാർത്ഥ ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾക്കു് ബോദ്ധ്യമുള്ള സംഗതിയാണു്. ഈ യുദ്ധപരിതഃസ്ഥിതിയിൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെന്റു് ആഹാരസാധനവിഷയത്തിൽ കൈക്കൊണ്ടിട്ടുള്ള നടപടികൾ യോഗ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതാകയാൽ അനുമോദനാർഹമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നു ഞാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞ കൗൺസിലിൽ പ്രസ്താപിച്ചപ്പോൾ, ധാരാളം സ്റ്റാമ്പു വിൽപ്പനനടത്തി എന്നുള്ള കാരണത്താൽ മി. മാധവക്കുറുപ്പിനെ ബഹുമാനിക്കണമൊ എന്നു മി. തമ്പി പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതും നാം ഈ ഘട്ടത്തിൽ ഗൗരവമായി ചിന്തിക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു. അതുപോലെതന്നെ, സമുദായപ്രാതിനിധ്യവാദത്തെക്കുറിച്ചു പ്രസ്താവിച്ചപ്പോൾ മറുഭാഗത്തു ഈ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പറിൽനിന്നു ബാർബർഷാപ്പുകളിലും റീഷാപ്പുകളിലും ഇന്നു ക്രൈസ്തവർക്കു പ്രാതിനിധ്യം വേണ്ടേ എന്നു കോംക്രയുണ്ടായി. ഇതെല്ലാം സഭയുടെ അനസ്സിനെ ക്ഷീണപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന ഒന്നാണെന്നുള്ളതിനു് യാതൊരു സംശയവുമില്ലാ. ഈ ദുശ്ശമായ പ്രസ്താവനകൾക്കു ഇനിമേൽ അവസരം നൽകിക്കൂടാ. തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെന്റു് ആഹാരസാധനവിഷയത്തിൽ സ്വീകരിച്ച നയത്തെ ഉറപ്പിക്കുകയും അതിനെ തുടർന്നു വരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ദീർഘദൃഷ്ടിയില്ലാത്ത ഉപരിപ്ലവബുദ്ധികൾക്കു് കാണുവാൻ, സാ

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ധിക്കാത്ത ഒരു ഭരണസംപ്രദായമാണ് തിരുവിതാംകൂർ കൈവരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ സ്ഥിരഭരണത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അവജ്ഞയുണ്ടാക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം ചിത്രീകരിക്കുവാനുള്ള ശ്രമം തികച്ചും ആക്ഷേപകരമായിട്ടുള്ളതും ഹാനികരമായിട്ടുള്ളതും ആകുന്നു. ആകയാൽ ഈ പ്രകാരമുള്ള പ്രസ്താവനകൾ അടങ്ങിയ മി. തമ്പിയുടെ പ്രസംഗം കൗൺസിൽ പ്രൊസീഡിംഗ്സിൽ നിന്ന് പാടെ നിഷ്കാസനംചെയ്യണമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നത്.

**Mr. N. Boothalingom Pillai** (*Thovala cum Agasteeswaram*): Sir, நான் இந்தப் பிரமேயத்தை அநுகூலிக்கிறேன். அதற்கு அநேக காரணங்கள் உண்டு. ஸ்ரீமான் பாலகிருஷ்ணன் தம்பி அவர்கள் இந்த சபை ஜனங்களின் பிரதிநிதித்வம் வாய்ந்த சபையல்ல என்று கூறினார். அது இந்த சபையையும், ஜனப்பிரதிநிதிகளையும் இழிவுபடுத்துவதாகும். ஆனால் உண்மையில் இச்சபையானது ஜனங்களால் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்ட உண்மை பிரதிநிதிகளடங்கிய சட்டசபை என்பதை அவர் நன்றாக உணரும்படி தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறேன். ஆதலால் அவர் கூறிய வாசகங்களை வாபஸ் செய்துகொள்வார் என்று நினைக்கிறேன்.

இரண்டாவதாக நமது அரசாங்கமும், திவான்ஜி அவர்களும் யாதொரு நன்மையும் செய்யவில்லையென்றும், எல்லாம் பிரசாரங்கள் தானென்றும் திவான்ஜி அவர்களை மறைமுகமாகக் குற்றம் சாட்டினார். ஸர், இந்த சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் எனக்கு சில வார்த்தைகள் சொல்லவேண்டும். அதாவது, நமது திவான் ஸர் ஸி. பி. ராமஸ்வாமி அய்யர் அவர்கள் திவான்ஜியாய் வருவதற்கு முன்பே பள்ளிவாசல் ஸ்கீம் தோன்றிற்று. ஆனால் அதன் கதி என்னவாயிற்று? ஏராளமாக பணம் சிலவாக்கப்பட்டது. கட்டிடங்கள் கட்டவும், பின்பு அஸ்திவாரம் பலமில்லாமல் இடியவும், வேலைகள் தடங்கவும் பின்பு அவைகளைப் பூர்த்தி செய்யாமல் விடவும், இப்படியாக பணமும் காலமும் கழிந்தன. பொதுவாக எல்லோரும் ஸ்கீம்கள் போடுவார்கள். அவைகளைப் பூர்த்தி செய்வதென்றால் வெகு சிலருக்கே முடியும். இவ்வளவு காலமாக பூர்த்தியாகாத பள்ளிவாசல் ஸ்கீமை, நமது திவான் ஸர். ஸி. பி. ராமஸ்வாமி அய்யர் அவர்கள் திவானாக வந்தவுடன் தம் பொறுப்பிலெடுத்து எவ்வளவு சீக்கிரம் முடிக்கலாமோ அவ்வளவு சீக்கிரத்தில் முடித்தார்கள். இந்தயிடத்தில் நமது திவான்ஜி ஸர் ஸி. பி. ராமஸ்வாமி அய்யர் அவர்களுக்கு ஒரு தனிப்பெருமை அளிக்கத்தான் வேண்டும். மேலும் இந்த ஸ்கீமினால் தரிசாய்க் கிடந்த நிலங்களெல்லாம் பொன் விளையக்கூடிய நிலங்களாயின. ஆகாரசாதனங்களுக்கு நெருக்கடியான இந்த சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் எவ்வளவோ ஏக்கர் தரிசு நிலங்கள் ஏராளம் நெல் விளையும் நிலங்களாயிருக்கின்றன.

இரண்டாவதாக, பெரியாற்றிலிருந்து பிரிட்டிஷ் இந்தியாவில் எலக்டிரிக் கரண்ட் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு வந்தது, நமது திவான் ஸர் ஸி. பி. ராமஸ்வாமி அய்யர் அவர்கள் அதிகாரத்தில், இதுவரை பெரியாற்றிலிருந்து தண்ணீருக்காக வாங்கிக்கொண்டிருந்த பிரதிபலத்துக்குமேல், எலக்டிரிக் ரண்டுக்கும் பிரத்தியேகமாக கட்டணம் தரவேண்டுமென்று வாதாடி, அதற்காகவும் பணம் வாங்கி, நமது சமஸ்தான வருமானத்தைக் கூட்டினார்கள். இதையும் ஒருவாலும் மறக்கமுடியாது.

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[Mr. N. Boothalingom Pillai.]

இன்னும் நஷ்டத்துடனும், யாதொரு பிரயோஜனமுமில்லாமலிருந்த ரப்பர் பாக்டரி, தக்கலை ஜீனி ஆபீஸ், காகர்கோவில் டிஸ்டிலரி முதலியவை களைக்குப் புத்துயிர் அளித்து அவைகளைப் பொறுப்பு வாய்ந்த முதலாளிகளிடம் கொடுத்து, சரியாக வேலை செய்யும் படியாகச் செய்து நமது காட்டின் வருமானத்தையும் கூட்டியிருக்கிறார்கள்.

நான்காவதாக குண்டலை களிமண் பாக்டரியை ஏற்படுத்தி, அது தற்போது வெகுநேர்த்தியாக வேலை செய்துவருகிறது. இதையும் நாம் ஞாபகத்தில் வைத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும்.

**President :** I trust tnat honourable members will not go into the question of where a particular Administrator did something good or bad. The only question here is in regard to the speech which is now assailed.

**Mr. N. Boothalingom Pillai :** ஸர், இந்த விஷயங்களை எல்லாம் இந்த சமயத்தில் கூறத்தான் வேண்டும்.

நமது திவான் ஸர் ஸி. பி. ராமஸ்வாமி அய்யர் அவர்கள் பிரிட்டிஷ் இந்தியாவில் பொதுமக்களின் நன்மைக்காகச் செய்திருக்கும் காரியங்களைப்பார்க்கும்போது, திருவிதாங்கூரில் அவர்கள் செய்திருக்கும் நன்மையான காரியங்கள் வெகு சிறியவையென்றே சொல்லலாம். பிரிட்டிஷ் இந்தியாவில் மேட்டர் டாம் (மேட்டர் அணை)யை எவரது கண்பார்கள் கேட்டிருப்பார்கள். இந்த அணை கட்ட ஆலோசித்ததும், கட்ட ஏற்பாடு செய்ததும், கட்டி முடித்ததும் யார்? அதுவும் நமது திவான் ஸர் ஸி. பி. ராமஸ்வாமி அய்யர் அவர்கள் தான். இதைக் கட்டத் திட்டம் போட்டபோது அக்காலத்தில் பிரிட்டிஷ் இந்தியாவில் செல்வாக்கிலிருந்த ஐஸ் டிஸ் கவர்னர் கூச்சலிட்டார்கள். இந்த அணை கட்ட முடியாதென்றும், இதில் செலவிடுகிற பணம் வீண் என்றும் நமது திவான் அவர்களைப் பழி கூறினர்கள். ஆனால் அணை கட்டி முடிந்தது. தற்போது ஆயிரக்கணக்கான ஏக்கர்கள் நஞ்சை நிலங்களாயின. முன்பு குறை கூறினவர் யாவரும் இவர்களைப் புகழத் துடங்கினர்கள். அப்படி உலகம் போற்றும் ஒருவரைக் குறை கூறுவது ஞாயமல்ல. நான் முன் கூறியதுபோல் திவான் ஸர் ஸி. பி. ராமஸ்வாமி அய்யர் அவர்களுக்கு ஒரு தனிப் பெருமையை அளிக்கத்தான் வேண்டும். நமது ராஜ்யத்தின் நன்மைக்காக தம் வாழ்நாளைச் செலவிடும் நமது திவான்ஜி அவர்களை இந்த சபையில் குறை கூறுவது அழகல்ல என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு, இந்தப் பிரமேயத்தை நான் பலமாய் பின்தாங்குகிறேன்.

**Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla :** Sir, this is an important question. As this involves a question of principle, I should like to put in a word in my own way. I have always heard a good deal of what people say about public men and I think it is not fair to question their motives. If the head of the Administration makes a statement as to what he or the Government should do in regard to industrial development or to other measures, we have to take that at their word. But at the same time, if that idea does not come up to the standard, we must point out that it should come up to that standard. I believe such ventilation of views is very necessary,

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without attributing motives. In this motion it is suggested that Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi has made the statements falsely and maliciously. If so, that would be a matter for criticism. If Mr. Tampi himself will say that whatever statement he has made is not malicious, I feel there is an end of the matter. When we are all agreed that the motives are not questioned, I think we should believe that no malice is involved in the statements made.

**President :** Does the honourable member think that the statement about advertisements by utilising a subsidized press is not malicious ?

**Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla :** I have not got those words before me. It is said that he used those words. But if Mr. Tampi himself says that it is not malicious, it would not be fair to proceed against him.

**President :** I shall not take action for that.

**Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla :** Therefore, Sir, my submission is this.

**President :** I am here speaking purely as a lawyer. To say that the Head of the Administration by utilising a subsidized press gets advertisements for things which have never been done, for instance, his reference to the industrial progress, I ask whether that question can be treated as malicious ? As a lawyer, I ask the honourable member who is a man of affairs whether that is malicious or not ?

**Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla :** It may be interpreted like that. What I plead is, in a Council like this if we can settle things in which there are differences of opinion amicably on a common basis, and concentrate all our energies and attention on the great and important problems of the day, it would be a great thing for the future good of the country.

**Mr. P. N. Nilakanta Pillai** (*Quilon* cum *Kunnathur*) : Sir, I support the motion. It cannot but be denied that the remarks made by my friend, Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi, were highly malicious and especially, when he said about things which are not supported by facts. Moreover, to say that we, the representatives of the people, assembled here are here not as true representatives but representatives of somebody else, indeed lowers the dignity of this honourable House. It cannot but be said that that statement lowers the dignity of the House to a very considerable extent. The Head of the Administration has developed the industrial resources of the State and it is a fact widely known throughout the length and breadth of the land. To say that the industrialisation of the country was effected not in actual deed but by means of advertisements by subsidising the press is most uncharitable and contrary to facts. I am also constrained to observe that the honourable member, Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi, with so much experience in the

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[Mr. P. N. Nilakanta Pillai.]

Legislature has given expression to the statement that we are not the representatives of the people.

**Mr. T. Mahomed Ismail**: Sir, I too support the motion.

**Mr. K. M. Kesavan**: Sir, I beg to support the motion. The statements made by Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi are really malicious and calculated to lower the dignity of this House. To say that this House is not representative in character is to endorse the view that the honourable member himself is not representing his own constituency. Again, the charge that this Government is irresponsible is quite incorrect. In my experience, this administration has been more responsive to the aspirations of the people. Some time back there was a cry for responsible Government in this country.

**President**: The honourable member need not refer to that.

**Mr. K. M. Kesavan**: May I ask Mr. Tampi whether he himself is not a member of an Advisory Committee which exercises some responsibility. Is this not a device of granting some manner of responsibility to the people of the State? When such is the circumstance, I am very sorry to observe that my friend gave expression to those opinions and ideas which in the nature of things ought not to have been uttered.

**Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai**: Sir, I make no apology in supporting this motion. Sir, statements have been made on the floor of this House by an honourable member which are thoroughly defamatory of the administration and of this House. Terms were used, insinuations were made of a character which are undoubtedly irresponsible and tendentious. As a member of this House and as a member representing the official side of this House, I have a duty to perform. It is not my intention now to analyse the various accusations that have been made. Comments or criticisms which are made *bona fide* and with a view to help or promote the betterment of any particular branch of the administration will be heeded to and suitable replies given. But when references are made, say, for instance, to the industrial programme of the Government not with a view to criticise or to offer any helpful suggestions in regard to this particular scheme or the other, but merely to make a general, sweeping condemnation of a character which is highly derogatory to the self-respect of the speaker himself, I must enter a strong caveat. It was stated that the claim of industrialisation here was a fiction—I do not say that these are the very words uttered by him, but that was the impression that the speaker has created in the minds of the public, namely, that without doing anything real in the field of industrialisation the endeavour was merely to advertise in a subsidised press. Is this a

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statement made *bona fide*? Again, the speaker was lacking in *bona fides* when he referred to the various items undertaken by Government and said that credit was not due to this Government for having undertaken those schemes. Particular reference was made for instance to the Pallivasal scheme. I do not want to go into details as the honourable members of this House and the public are only too well aware of the prominent part which has been played by the present Dewan in respect of the progressive development of this scheme.

**President:** The honourable member need not refer to the personal aspects of the matter.

**Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai:** I bow to your ruling, Sir. I must now refer to one other aspect of the matter. One can understand if the wants and grievances of the people are brought to the attention of the House in a *bona fide* manner. But what is it that has been stated? "There is no freedom from fear" and references were made to the Atlantic Charter. My submission, humble submission, is this. Unless there was that freedom of speech which His Highness the Maharaja has conferred even by Statute, unless there was that "freedom from fear," would it be possible for this honourable member to have made the speech which he delivered today on the floor of the House? While speaking that there was freedom from want, an impression was sought to be created in the public mind, contrary, absolutely contrary, to facts. Again, I must, Sir, with your kind leave, record my humble though strong protest against the insinuation that this House has lost its representative capacity today. I challenge that statement. It is true that after the normal term of this House, extensions have been granted. But that is not peculiar to this House. Even the term of the House of Commons has been extended. The times are extraordinary, and there are certain reasons why the term had to be extended, and to suggest or to attribute some motive to Government in taking this action or to insinuate that the honourable members of this House, have lost their representative capacity is, I should say, extremely irresponsible and highly mischievous. These irresponsible and tendentious statements ought not to find a plcae in the records of the House and it is only meet and proper. that this motion has been made and I would strongly support it

**Mr. P. Balakrishnan Tampi:** Sir, I am in a very awkward position as the accused on the bar before the House of Lords to answer the very serious charges made by my Peers. That is very bad indeed. I am almost glad that my honourable friend, Mr. Fletcher, found some flaw in my conduct here—not professional misconduct any how, but alleged mis-behaviour here. I owe to



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[Mr. P. Balakrishnan Tampi]

you, Sir, and this honourable House to make it plain that if the honourable member had read out the portions it would have been easy for me to answer. I want to make it plain that my speech was not meant to be a hallelujah of the Government. I want the House to realise that when I stated that there is a public impression that this House is unrepresentative of the country, I was only repeating what was stated in other parts of the country, what, for instance, Dr. Ambedkar, an honourable member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, had stated elsewhere. For the information of the honourable members of this House I may say that all over the world Legislatures have been subjected to the same criticism. The terms of the legislatures have been extended, and the same criticism has been made against them. Not only that. If honourable members would take the trouble of looking up any ordinary text-book of politics, they will find that it is against public policy to extend the term of a legislature. Because, by mere efflux of time, honourable members themselves will admit, they do lose the contact with the public which is very necessary for carrying on their duties in the legislature. And, therefore, it is a healthy provision limiting the term of the legislature to a fixed period made in all countries which have any pretension of parliamentary government. I should be really sorry if I have in any way wounded the feelings of honourable members of this House. I am prepared to apologise individually to honourable members like Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Sankara Menon and Mr. Mukkadan, who made a general indictment against my conduct, if they feel that any personal disparagement was meant by me. He quoted my former sayings and former misdeeds. But I am quite confident that I have not uttered any word here which would be considered objectionable in any parliamentary body in any part of the world. I am sure honourable members, by this vote of censure, do not wish to take out of the proceedings or erase anything that other honourable members had the temerity to say. I do not think that that is the object. From different parts of the House the same tone of disapproval came up. Therefore, I was inclined to think that there must be really something bad about it. I agree with the saying that one person cannot be wise as against the whole House. The Leader of the House was saying that my remarks gave umbrage to some people. My friend, the Leader of the House, I am glad to note is no longer in the judiciary.

**Mr. K. G. Kunjukrishna Pillai:** I rise to a point of order. Is it in order to say that the Leader of the House is not in the judiciary and thus cast an aspersion upon his conduct?

**President:** The honourable member says that he is not in the judiciary.

**Mr. P. Balakrishnan Tampi:** To say that I have mentioned that, and that therefore I have committed a grievous sin and

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to say that that was the impression that the Leader of the House got is beneath criticism. If that was the object he had in view I only wish he had done better than repeat in that rhetorical undergraduate manner his disapproval of my conduct. Anyway, Sir, as a gentleman, as a member of this House, I want to make it plain, ofcourse, my honourable friends would not have thought that I wanted to attribute motives. I do not want my friends to say that because my speech was impassioned I wanted to attribute motives to them. It is funny, Sir, that that was made an occasion for castigating me, for crucifying me, and the way in which hands were put up in pious horror by my friends was really very imposing. The motion reads, 'this house being of the opinion that the representative character...' I have not made any attacks against the representative character ; "and against the Head of the Administration"—I have not made any attacks against the Head of the Administration. I am only saying that the Government is wrong in doing these things. I have no quarrel with the Head of the Administration. It is my elementary right to say what I feel in good faith against Government. And I am under no moral or legal or constitutional obligation to say hallelujah and I do not want to repeat here the same offence which would displease my honourable colleagues. I do not consider that my speech is an offensive speech at all. It is a very serious infringement of the privileges of the House to have a majority party to vote and ask for the expunging from the proceedings of the House any speech they do not want.

**President :** Order, order. That is out of order. It is imputing motives to this House.

**Mr. P. Balakrishnan Tampi :** I did not say so. I was casually looking into May's "*Parliamentary Practice*" during the lunch interval regarding the occasions when remarks are expunged. This is the first occasion in which honourable members have been very enthusiastically accepting the expunging of certain proceedings in a popular house.

Anyway, I congratulate my learned colleagues on the pious speeches reminiscent of the Sunday school horror of sin on the speeches they made against an erring colleague and particularly the speech of the eloquent Leader of the House who condemned in no small measure my temerity in criticising the Government.

The motion was put and carried.

**Mr. P. Balakrishnan Tampi :** I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result :—

AYES—31.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko
2. Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan
3. Dr. S. John
4. Mr. G. Narayanan Tampi

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[Mr. P. Balakrishnan Tampi]

5. Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan
6. Mr. K. G. Kunjukrishna Pillai
7. Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar
8. Mr. K. Madhava Kurup
9. Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai
10. Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar
11. Mr. M. Govindan
12. Mr. V. Sankara Menon
13. Mr. J. Fletcher
14. Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail
15. Mrs. Gnanasikamony
16. Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan
17. Sahib Bahadur Sultan Muhiyuddin
18. Sahib Bahadur Haji Hassan Yacob Sait
19. Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai
20. Mr. K. M. Kesavan
21. Mr. P. N. Nilakanta Pillai
22. Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar
23. Mr. Thuppan Namboothiripad
24. Mr. P. R. Goda Varma Raja
25. Mr. P. I. Simon
26. Mr. A. T. S. Kadir Bhoy
27. Mr. G. Narayana Iyer
28. Mr. N. Bhoothalingom Pillai
29. Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla
30. Mr. T. Krishna Pillai
31. Mr. A. Easwara Pillai.

NOES—1.

1. Mr. P. Balakrishnan Thampi.

NEUTRALS—1.

1. Mr. T. W. U. Park.

The motion was declared carried.

**President:** The speech of Mr. Balakrishnan Thampi will be expunged from the proceedings of the House.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET—(*contd.*)

**Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar:** Sir, I was placing before the House the disabilities under which the Tea and Rubber Estate owners are working, namely the insufficiency of labour, increased cost of packing materials, the increased cost and difficulties of transport and various other difficulties and restrictions. I may point out that we are not to judge by the prospectuses issued by certain persons who with the object of making large profits have floated

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certain companies, in which Tea and Rubber Estates formed the main asset. It is true that during the period of the economic depression the restriction schemes of Tea and Rubber control saved the industry from being uneconomic. But the disabilities pointed out by me are now confronting the estate-owners very seriously. It is true that some attempt was made—thanks to the efforts of Government—for the regular supply of rice through the Association of Planters. I may state for the information of the House and of you, Sir, that not a grain of rice has been received by any Rubber or Tea estate pertaining to April, May, June or July quotas. A reference by me to the Secretary to the Association of Planters elicited the reply that he cannot be certain as to how and when the supply will be continued. So it is my humble request to Government to treat the case of Rubber and Tea estates owners as urgent. However affluent they might be at other times, the coolies will have to be supplied with food so that the estates may not be closed down and the contracts entered into with Government may not be revoked. I may point out that Tea and Rubber have not been ignored entirely. In the Budget for 1117 for the first time, a cess on Rubber was imposed and the duty on Tea was increased. In the Budget for the current year the cess has been increased from Re. 1 to Rs. 1/8 for Rubber. The position of the local market for Tea or Rubber is not hopeful. Most of the Tea merchants have been hoarders of Tea. They have to hoard the tea on account of the impossibility of local sales. Exports are restricted to supply to the Ministry of Food at fixed rates. The estate-owners have not only to pay land tax, and duty and cess on tea, but have to pay income tax also, and now it is increased 50 per cent. The duty has also been increased and no appreciable allowance has been made for giving the estate-owners any margin to compensate for the increasing losses on the various items I have referred to.

The Cardamom estates have also got more or less the same difficulties. Sir you referred to an order which has been passed prohibiting the transport of paddy and rice in private lorries. I do concede that it is a very wholesome order and it will check illicit transport. But then, may I point out that an exception has to be made in the case of private lorries of estate-owners who transport rice given to them by the Association of Planters, to their estates.

**President:** There is no difficulty about that. That is really the responsibility of the Government also because the honourable member will realise that in addition to the March supply of the Madras Government, the April supply has also been promised by them. So far as this Government are concerned they have stated that their supplies will depend upon the supply by the Government of India. The Government of India have stated that the rice

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[President]

position is very precarious, that Madras is a very deficit Province and that they will supplement our requirements of rice by Millets, Bajra and other things. In the absence of rice, we have accepted everything that is offered. Let me assure the honourable member that we do not shirk our responsibility in the case of Tea and Rubber estates.

**Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar:** Even now on account of the insufficient supply of rice, tea and rubber estates are purchasing Cholam and Bajra. Coolies are taking kindly to Cholam because it is a fairly good substitute for rice.

Cardamom estate owners are purchasing rice at exorbitant prices. A larger number of substitutes may be given in place of rice.

The difficulty of transport has also been enhanced by the dearth of petrol and particularly of tyres. So I wish to bring to the kind notice of Government that such *bona fide* applicant should be supplied with tyres more generously than is being done hitherto.

If the taxation on agricultural income is limited to the money crops of Tea and Rubber, perhaps there would be some justification that in better days large estate owners might have built up reserves. But to impose a tax on paddy and cocoanut and other things is the unkindest cut of all. During the period 1105 to 1115, the period of economic depression, the owners of cocoanut gardens and paddy fields were very much hard hit. On account of the better prices available now they are just recovering, with the result that the present agricultural indebtedness is being relieved and the losses are also being recuperated. So my humble suggestion is that if the Government is firm and definite about levying Income Tax on agricultural income, staple products such as cocoanut and paddy, may be exempted from the operation of that scheme. It may also be pointed that the price of coconuts which was Rs. 9 has gone down to Rs. 5 and one does not know whether it will not go down still further. One point I wish to emphasise is that this new tax will only be a substitution and not a super-addition. It is true that the principles of taxation are being considered and the minds of economists are working on that subject. Possibly the idea is that it is not the land but the income from land that has to be taxed. In other words, the tax on land may be removed and the tax on income may be substituted so that there may not be a dual taxation. Either the tax on land may be revised or the agricultural income tax may be imposed, or persons who pay the agricultural income tax to that extent may be exempted from the land tax.

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The food problem is the greatest problem now confronting us. Compared with the sister State of Cochin the area of Reserve land thrown open for paddy cultivation in this State is low. I think our reserve resources are more extensive than those of the other State.

(*President's bell.*)

**Mr. T. Krishna Pillai:** Sir, seven years have elapsed since you began to handle the resources of this State, and the revenue of the State which was Rs. 249 lakhs at the commencement of your regime has mounted up to Rs. 375 lakhs at present, and would be reaching four crores by the ensuing year. Such a study and stupendous increase in our income side by side with great achievements in other directions has been undoubtedly the result of the wise and far-sighted statesmanship of the present head of the administration. Let me also avail myself of this opportunity to thank the Dewan-President for the recognition of that truth—namely, the innate loyalty of the citizens of Travancore towards their beloved Sovereign.

Sir, lately we are having an era of surplus budgets; and the Financial Secretary has presented a surplus budget for the ensuing year. I also wish to join the chorus of congratulation to the Financial Secretary, but I do so not for the surplus budget that he introduced, because we know that his responsibilities for the budget estimate are but vicarious and even shadowy, but, Sir, I congratulate him on the brevity and lucidity of his speech. A surplus budget by itself cannot offer much food for consolation or jubilation. It is in the disposal of the surplus, that in my opinion the responsibility of the head of the Administration does most definitely come in and if that is a fair and equal distribution of the bounty which good fortune may have placed in his hands, then there is unquestionably matter for great satisfaction and hilarity. It is clear from the budget estimate that the present administration is concerned not only with the problems of today but more keenly concerned with the graver problems of tomorrow.

I wish to say a word about the important problem of the day viz., the food problem. Sir, no other State in India has suffered, as much from a commercial treaty as Travancore has suffered from the effects of the Interportal Trade Convention. Our State is essentially a maritime State. The evil effects of the war on our resources are incomparably severe. But Sir, the contributions to the war effort, in men, material and money is unequalled and unexcelled by any other State. But the help that we get from the Central Government in the supply of rice and other food stuffs is so disappointing. Thank to your unceasing efforts in making our cry from distant South heard by those that count in Delhi, we are obtaining

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[Mr. T. Krishna Pillai.]

the utmost quantity of rice that could be made available to us. But yet it must be admitted that we have not got enough. Now, Sir, as you have stated the greatest need of the country is to see that it is no longer dependent on outside sources. If we are permitted to call a spade,"a spade," we are constrained to observe that the food production drive and the "grow more food campaign", made much of by the spokesmen of Government are, judging from the results so far obtained, mere bosh and bunkum. The Financial Secretary says that tapioca cultivation has increased by 25 to 35 per cent. True, tapioca cultivation has increased but it is not because of the so-called Food Production Drive of the Agricultural Department. Of all cultivation, tapioca cultivation is the easiest. It will grow in any soil, under any climatic condition, and no big capital is needed for its cultivation. It is the poor man's staple food, and so, naturally, without any impetus or drive from Government or their officers, its cultivation increased day by day. I scanned the pages of the Financial Secretary's speech to see whether any encouraging or consoling information was available as to the increased production of paddy in the State on account of the activities of the various departments of Government, but apart from the usual, stereotyped rhetoric regarding the advantages of intensive cultivation and starting of industries connected with fertilisers, I was not able to find any. The Administration Report of the Agricultural Department also offers amusing reading in this direction. They say that they have started dozens of sales depots in various centres, but out of Rs. 30,000 worth of manure stocked, only about Rs. 2,000 worth of manure was actually sold. It is detailed in the report.

"Towards the end of the year, the Department took up the intensive Food Production Campaign. The Government allotted Rs 30,000 for the purchase and sale of manures to cultivators at various centres to facilitate the intensive cultivation of land so as to produce more food in the country as mentioned earlier in the report. Manure depots were opened at the following centres by the Department.

1. Nagercoil
2. Kottaram
3. Thrippathisaram
4. Darsanamcope
5. Thuckala
6. Neyyattinkara
7. Attingal
8. Nedumangad
9. Quilon
10. Oachira
11. Kayamkualm
12. Sherthalai
13. Danapadical
14. Kottayam
15. Muvattupuzha
16. Perumpavoor

Cash and credit sales were allowed in the above depots, and the manures stocked in them found a ready sale. Manures to the value of Rs. 2,786 were sold out by the end of the year."

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In this connection, I want to draw the attention of the Government to one point. Whatever be the number of manure depots or whatever be the better seeds and better fertilisers they introduce so long as the agriculturists have not got the wherewithal to carry on their agricultural operations in time, their highsounding words could not avail much. Travancore is a country of small holdings, and I for one, seriously doubt whether better fertilisers, better seed, and better propaganda will not be unprofitable and a waste because of the very nature of our holdings and the indiscriminate fragmentation that is supposed to run rampant even to this day. It is said that there is a plethora of money in the country, but, Sir, it must not be forgotten that small land-holders who form the majority of the land-holders of the State, have not got sufficient money to purchase manure, bullocks and all that are necessary for the purpose of cultivation. So I would urge that sufficient facilities should be given to the agriculturists. Sir, the difficulty of getting agricultural loans by the small scale agriculturists is very great and the delay is but proverbial. One outstanding impediment that stands in the way of augmenting the production of paddy, is the inadequate attention, rather I would say the criminal neglect of the irrigation works. Now it is eminently gratifying to note that Government have sanctioned the re-constitution of the Irrigation Division. Some years ago we had a separate Irrigation Division, but judging from the advantages accrued from that bifercated body of the P. W. D. we cannot justify the proposed bifurcation. Sir, the Neyyattinkara Taluk is a rain-fed and tank-fed taluk pure and simple, and the irrigation works are not attended to at all. As far as the irrigation question is concerned, the Public Works Department cannot raise the plea of want of funds. There is an yearly growing irrigation fund. Now the proposal is to start a separate Irrigation Division, and I am of the definite and emphatic opinion, Sir, that if only an officer of sufficient driving force, administrative talent and efficieney is appointed as its head, anything good and beneficial could be conceived. If such an officer cannot be found within the Public Works Department, I would strongly urge the appointment of an officer from outside the Public Works Department.

Sir, another point I wish to bring to the notice of Government is with regard to the co-ordination of the allied offices of the Land Revenue, Forest and Agricultural Departments, as mentioned in the speech of the Financial Secretary. I would strongly urge that the development departments viz., the department of Agriculture, the Industries and the Co-operative Department may be co-ordinated and brought under the administrative control of one specia officer, especially, Sir, from what the Dewan-President said regar-



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[Mr. T. Krishna Pillai.]

ding the inefficiency of the Agricultural Department a couple of years ago and also from the manner in which the Industries Department is working at present.

I do sympathise with the Director when I find that in compiling the Administration Report of the Department he, despite himself, due to dearth of any interesting or useful information to be included, has to make historical narration of the working of certain big limited concerns working in the State, and also further from the precious little you expressed of the co-operative department: —

> "Our co-operative societies are still very imperfect, inchoate and badly organised. Unless Herculean labours are put forward I do not see any future for co-operative societies."

I strongly urge that these three Departments, may, with advantage be co-ordinated and tacked together. If mending is not possible, I would most seriously say that these costly shows are ended.

I wish to speak a word on the control, purchase and distribution of paddy. The control was initiated here before any other Government thought of it. With regard to distribution of rice one standing complaint is that the officers of Government are getting more rice than they ordinarily require, indirectly encouraging there by the black-market. Sir, you have stated in your speech that representations and letters are pouring in at "Bhaktivilas" from Military men employed outside for giving exceptional treatment to their families in this State, and you say that exceptional and differential treatment is out of the question. I urge that no sort of exceptional treatment should be given to the officers also. There are many officers who own paddy fields, but purchased rice is handsomely rationed out to them. Another invidious distinction shown in the matter of distribution is between the urban and the rural population. Much might be said on both sides of the question but to avoid unnecessary heart-burning and to maintain a peaceful atmosphere, it is but practical politics and far-sighted wisdom to remove such differential treatment in the distribution of foodstuffs at this time of day.

**Mr. K. M. Kesavan :** Sir, we have a surplus budget and many of the honourable members of the House have congratulated the Government for having brought out the same. A budget, whether it is a surplus or a deficit one, does not deserve praise or condemnation merely as such. If, after providing for all useful services and possible needs, a surplus budget can be framed, that certainly is a matter for congratulation and happily it is such a budget that has been presented to us. Sir, much has been said about the peak point we have reached with regard to our revenue. It is estimated at Rs. 385 lakhs. But I may ask, Sir, what is the

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purchasing power of this Rs. 385 lakhs at present? In ordinary times, this may be equivalent to something like Rs. 250 lakhs or thereabout. So the figure, big in itself, does not deserve to be praised so much as it was done by some of the honourable members. That is the point I wish to bring to the notice of this House. But there are certain redeeming features even as it is. I refer to the large amount of money set apart for the post-war reconstruction work. Certainly we are going to be confronted with a very serious situation, the like of which we have never yet witnessed. Provision for this colossal work has to be made now and proper precaution taken early enough. I do not think that this provision—the setting apart of a large fund alone—will suffice. As suggested by my honourable friend Mr. Eswara Pillai, a committee of experts, if possible, of a representative character, may be constituted to go into this problem to suggest ways and measures for the post-war reconstruction work to be carried out.

The next problem, the immediate problem before us, is the food situation. Very recently with a view to tide over this situation, Government have already passed orders with regard to the purchase of paddy on the basis of settlement pattom. Presumably this looks all right. The settlement pattom which is now taken as the basis, was fixed 40 or 50 years ago. But the fertility of the soil has changed considerably after that time owing to various reasons over which we have no control. It has deteriorated owing to intensive cultivation for a long period, or owing to filling up or fertile surface soil being washed away. Lack of proper facilities for letting out unnecessary or excess water is the cause in some cases. Owing to overhanging trees, which have been planted since the Settlement, and which completely or partially shut out light is another reason. These are the difficulties the poor ryot has to meet with. Therefore lands which were classified as 1st class lands during the last settlement have in many cases to be classed as 10th or 12th class lands at present. For this reason the settlement pattom as such should not be fixed as the basis on which paddy should be purchased by Government. On the contrary, there may be some lands—proportionately much less—which have improved also in their fertility since the last Settlement. I therefore draw the attention of Government that the yield basis is a change for the better from the acreage basis if adopted with necessary changes on the lines I have pointed out.

As a result of the enquiry I have had in my pakuthy, I find that most of the lands have deteriorated and that their fertility has suffered very much, so much so, that the poor ryots are not in a position to sell any paddy, or paddy to Government, to the extent laid down in their recent orders. Moreover in regard to the present paddy crop, owing to the rain setting in too early and continuing for

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[Mr. K. M. Kosavan.]

an unusually long period the fields all over the four taluks which comprise my constituency, have yielded far below the normal expectation or in other words the Chingom paddy crop is a failure. I have come to know of instances where one acre of land has not yielded even twenty paras. The yield at the present harvest according to my first hand information, in the Taluks referred to varies from 20 to 40 paras per acre. If, from this yield, a portion is set apart for seed and for labour charges, I do not know what the poor ryot will have for himself. I am bewildered at the gloomy prospects with which he is beset, and I do not know how he will be able to keep the wolf off his door. It is a very serious question with which he is confronted, and it is very difficult to understand how, over and above the labour charges, for seed purposes and keeping a portion for his own use, he will be able to sell any paddy to Government. Memorials, I understand, have been sent to Government.

Over and above what are going on in the habitually cultivated areas, no efforts should be stinted on the part of the Government to explore the possibilities of converting more reserve lands for the cultivation not only of paddy, but of other edible crops as well. I know for certain that there are areas in Devicolam taluk, now rather unexplored, where English vegetables, such as potatoes turnips and others can be cultivated with profit. The possibilities of such cultivation have also to be investigated.

Next to food comes the question of clothing. Because of the climate of this country and because of the intensity of rainfall during a greater part of the year, there are not many acres of land in our country where we shall be able to cultivate cotton. But Government are conducting investigations and experiments with regard to this matter and I learn with pleasure that experimental cultivation of cotton is being carried on in South Travancore where the climate and the soil are suited for this cultivation and where there are other facilities also for a profitable cultivation of cotton. If my information is correct, here is a field where Government must carry on continued efforts so that our problem with regard to clothing may be solved.

Twice before, I have raised the problem of the reclamation of the Kayameulam back-waters which lie within the taluks of Karthigapally and Karunagapally. These back-waters have an area of not less than twenty square miles and the average depth is between 4 and 5 feet except during flood. Then also it does not rise very much. If parts of the Vembanad lake which has an average depth of 6 to 7 feet can be reclaimed and paddy cultivation carried on with profit, why not the Government explore the possibilities of reclaiming sufficient areas from these back-waters also? I don't

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know whether Government have made any investigation in this matter. If they have not done it, it is my humble request that immediate and urgent investigations my be made in regard to this matter.

I have referred to the peak-point of Rs. 385 lakhs of revenue we have reached without having recourse to any taxation of a sort inconvenient to the people. Three items have been attempted and these are attempted with the best of motives and with a care not to inconvenience people in any degree. Taxation on agriculture is a very welcome measure and, as was observed by two or three honourable members, is original in its nature. There was a time-honoured policy that income tax should not be levied on agricultural income. With this I do not agree at all. The position taken by Government is not only correct and welcome but it is even a model to be copied by other States and Provinces as well. In fact owing to the difference of conditions brought about by this war, there has arisen, as it were, a large amount of unearned income for which the agriculturist or the industrialist or any person in whatever vocation he may be, is not directly responsible or has not consciously made any effort. Immense profits are secured, not as a result of any conscious effort on the part of agriculturists or industrialists. A charge, therefore, is made upon these people by the State and a large fund is thus made available to the Government whose instincts are noble and social and who will spend that fund for the benefit of the public.

**Mr. N. Boothalingam Pillai:** லர் 1119-ம் வருஷத்திய பட்ஜட்டை நான் ஆதரிக்கிறேன். நமது நாட்டின் வருமானம் உத்தேசம் நாலுகோடி ரூபாய்க்கு வந்துவிட்டது. இவ்வினைக்குக்கு வேண்டிய துகைகளை நீக்கிவைத்து போக மிச்சமும் காணப்படுகிறது. உண்மையில் இது ஒரு சிறந்த பட்ஜெட்டு என்று சொல்லலாம். அதற்காக லெஜிஸ்லேடிவ் செக்காரட்டரி (Financial Secretary) அவர்களுக்கு என் நன்றியைச் செலுத்திக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

யுத்தம் கழிந்தபிற்பாடு நிகழ்ந்தவேண்டிய புனருத்தாரண வேலைகளுக்கும் (Postwar Reconstruction Work), இருஷியின் அபிவிருத்திக்காகவும் உத்தேசம் 156 லக்ஷம் ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கிவைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இந்தத் துகையில் 9 லக்ஷம் ரூபாய் இருஷி வருமானவரியில் வருகிறது. இந்தப் புது வரி எதற்காகவென்று பார்த்தால், அவசியமில்லாமல் சில காரணங்களின் பயங்கர ஏராளமாக பணம் ஜனங்களிடம் வரும்போது கவர்ன்மெண்டார் கைப்பற்றுவது பொருளாதார தத்துவப்படி இது மிகப் பொருத்தமானதுமல்லாமல், பொதுநன்மைக்குமிக்க அவசியமென்பதும் எனது அபிப்பிராயம். இந்த சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் எனக்கு ஒன்றிரண்டு வார்த்தைகள் சொல்லவேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. அதாவது யுத்தம் முடிந்தபிறகு இருஷியின் அபிவிருத்திக்காக நீக்கிவைத்திருக்கும் துகையை தற்போது உணவுப் பொருள்களால் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கும் இந்த நெருக்கடியான சமயத்தில், நம் நாட்டின் இருஷியின் அபிவிருத்திக்காகச் செலவு செய்ய வேண்டுமென்பது எனது அபிப்பிராயம்.

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[Mr. N. Boothalingam Pillai.]

ஸர், பொதுவாக, ஒருவனிடம் ஸாளமர்கப் பணமிருக்குமானல், அக்கம்பக்கத்திலிருப்பவர்களுக்குப் பொருமை ஏற்படுவது சகஜம். அது போல், நமது பட்ஜெட்டில் யுத்தம் கழிந்த பிறகு புனருத்தாண வேலைகளுக்கும், கிருஷியின் அபிவிருத்திக்கும் ஒதுக்கிவைத்திருக்கும் பணம், 1119-ம் வருஷம் முடிவுக்குள் எகதேசம் மூன்றுகோடியாகுமென்பது நிச்சயம். இப்பெருந்தொகை ஒருவேளை அயல்நாட்டாருக்கு பொருமையையும் உண்டுபண்ணும். அதனல் இந்தப் பணத்தைக் கொண்டு செங்கோட்டை—கொல்லம் ரயில்வேக் கடனைத் தீர்க்கவும், நம் ராஜ்யத்தின் கிருஷியின் அபிவிருத்திக்கு வேண்டியதைச் செய்வதற்கும் உபயோகிக்கலாம்.

யுத்தத்தின் காரணமாக நம் நாட்டில் ஆகாரசாதனங்களுக்கு ஒரு பெரிய நெருக்கடி ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இந்தச் சமயத்தில் நம்து நாட்டின் மக்களுக்கு உணவுபொருள்களை வளங்க, கவர்மெண்டார் அவ்வப்போது எடுக்கும் நடவடிக்கைகளில் நாம் பங்கெடுக்கவும், அவர்களுடன் ஒத்துழைக்கவேண்டியதும், நம் ஒவ்வொருவருடைய கடமையாகும். தற்போது நமக்கு உணவுப் பொருள்கள் 100-க்கு 40 வீதந்தான் கிடைக்கின்றன. வெளியிலிருந்துகொண்டுவரமுடியாமல் அநேகம் தடைகள் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கின்றன். யுத்தத்துக்கு முன் இங்கிலாந்துக்கு வேண்டிய உணவுப்பொருள்களில் ஒரு பாகம் வெளிநாடுகளிலிருந்து வந்துகொண்டிருந்தது. இதனல் இங்கிலாந்தை முற்றுகையிட்டால் ஆங்கில மக்கள் பணிந்துவிடுவார்கள் என்று ஜெர்மனி நினைத்தது. ஆனல் இங்கிலாந்து என்ன செய்தது? அங்குள்ள மக்கள் யாவரும் தங்களுக்கு வேண்டிய உணவுப் பொருள்களைச் சேகரிப்பதில் தங்கள் முழு கவனத்தையும் செலுத்தி, 1943-க்குள் இங்கிலாந்துக்கு வேண்டிய உணவுப்பொருள்களில் முக்கால் பாகமும் இடைக்க வழி தேடிக்கொண்டுவிட்டார்கள். அது போல் நாமும் நம் நாட்டாருக்கு வேண்டிய உணவுப் பொருள்களை கிருஷி செய்யவும், சேகரிக்கவும் வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கைகள் உடனடி எடுக்கவேண்டும். உணவுப் பொருள்களை கிருஷிசெய்பவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய ஒத்தாசை செய்து அவர்களை உற்சாகப்படுத்தவேண்டும். கிருஷியின் அபிவிருத்திக்கு கவர்மெண்டார் ஸாளமாக பணம் செலவிடவேண்டும். நம் நாட்டில் ஒரு அங்குல பூமி கூட மலுபூமியாகக் கிடக்கக்கூடாது.

ஸர், நாஞ்சநாட்டில் மற்றயிடங்களை விட ஸெட்டில்மென்டு பாட்டம் கூடுதலாக நிர்ணயிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. நாங்கள் இதைப்பற்றி கவர்மெண்டாரிடம் எவ்வளவோ தரம் முறையிட்டும், பிரயோஜனப்படாமல், கடைசியாக நமது திவான் ஸர். ஸி. பி. ராமஸ்வாமி அய்யர் அவர்களிடம் விண்ணப்பித்துக்கொண்டதில், எங்களது சங்கடங்களை நியாயமென்று உணர்ந்து 20 சதமானம் குறைத்துக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அதற்கு நாங்கள் எங்களது நன்றியைச் செலுத்திக் கொள்கிறோம்.

ஸர், ஸெட்டில்மென்டு பாட்டத்தைப் பற்றி சில வார்த்தைகள் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். இந்த ராஜ்யத்திலுள்ள எல்லா பாகங்களைவிட நாஞ்சநாட்டில் ஸெட்டில்மென்டு பாட்டம் கூடுதல் என்று சொல்லிக்கொள்கிறேன். இந்த முறை பாட்டத்தினல் நாஞ்சிநாட்டாருக்கு அநேக கஷ்டநஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. முதலாவது நம் நாட்டில் கேட்டெழுத்துப் பாட்டம் அமுலிலிருந்தது. வீளைவைப் பரிசோதித்து பாட்டம் நிச்சயித்ததை கேட்டெழுத்து என்று சொல்வது.

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நஞ்சை நிலத்தின் முன்புள்ள ரிக்கார்டுகளைப் பார்த்தும் விசாரணை செய்தும், விளைவு நேரில் கண்டு பாட்டம் நிச்சயிப்பதற்கு 'கண்டெழுத்துப் பாட்டம்' என்று சொல்வது. கண்டெழுத்துப் பாட்டம் தொடங்கும்போது கவர்மெண்டார் சொன்னது—1061-ம் ஆண்டு திருவெழுத்து விளம்பரத்தை அனுசரித்தும், திவான் ராமய்யங்கார் அவர்களுடைய மேமொராண்டங்களையொட்டியும், சர்க்காரால் அவ்வப்போது பிறப்பிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் உத்தரவுகளைத் தழுவியும், முன்புள்ள கேட்டெழுத்தை பொட்டியும், கண்டெழுத்து நிச்சயிக்கவேண்டும் என்றிருந்தது. எனென்றால் நான் மேற்சொன்ன ரிக்கார்டுகள் பாட்டத்தைப் பற்றியும், அதை நிச்சயிக்கவேண்டிய முறைகளையும் கூறியிருக்கின்றன. ஆனால் இவைகள் ஒன்றையும் கவனிக்காமல் கண்டெழுத்துப்பாட்டம் நிச்சயிக்கப்பட்டது. இவைகளை எல்லாம் அனுசரித்து கண்டெழுத்துப் பாட்டம் நிச்சயித்தபோது, இது கேட்டெழுத்துப்பாட்டத்தை விட குறைந்திருக்குமோ என்று எனக்கு ஒரு சந்தேகம் கூட உண்டு. கண்டெழுத்து எப்படி நடத்தப்பட்டது என்பதையும் இந்தச் சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் கூற விரும்புகிறேன். திருவனந்தபுரம் தாலூகாவில் பால்குளங்கரை பகுதியிலுள்ள குறிப்பிட்ட சில நிலங்களின் விளைவுகளை மாத்திரம் பரீக்ஷித்து, அதை ஆதாரமாக்கி, மேற்படி பகுதியிலுள்ள இறுமங்களிலுள்ள நிலங்களுக்கும் பல தரங்கள் நிச்சயிக்கப்பட்டது. மேல் விசாரணையோ, பரிசோதனையோ—செய்யாமல் நான் முன்கூறிய பால்குளங்கரையில் செய்த பரீக்ஷையை வைத்துக் கொண்டு, நம் ராஜ்யத்திலுள்ள நிலங்களையெல்லாம் பல தரங்களாகப் பிரித்துவிட்டார்கள். பரீக்ஷித்த பகுதியிலுள்ள 4, 5 தரங்களை வைத்துக் கொண்டு 14 வித தரங்களையும் ஏற்படுத்தி விட்டார்கள். இதனால் என்ன ஏற்பட்டதென்றால் பாட்டம் நிச்சயத்திற்கும், மொத்த வருமானத்திற்கும், ஒன்றுக் கொன்று ஒருவிதமான சம்மந்தமுமில்லாமலாகிவிட்டது. இந்தமாதிரி நிச்சயிக்கப்பட்ட பாட்டத்தை வைத்துக்கொண்டு, நிலத்தின் உண்மையான வருமானத்தை நிர்ணயிப்பது முறையாகாது என்பதற்கு வேறு காரணமுமுண்டு. அதாவது நிலத்தின்பேரிலுள்ள ஒத்தி, திருப்பு, பாட்டம், திருஷ்டிச்சிலவு, முதலிய எல்லாச் சிலவுகளையும் நீக்கியுள்ள நிஜமான வருமானத்தையும், சர்க்கார் கரத்தையும் நிச்சயிக்கவேண்டியது. இதுதான் நியாயமான முறை. கவர்ன்மென்டுக்குச் சேரவேண்டியது எவ்வளவு என்றாலோ—முதலாவது விளைவை நிச்சயித்து, இதிலிருந்து திருஷ்டிக்கான சிலவும், வித்துக்குள்ள சிலவும் போக பாக்கியுள்ளதை ஆறு பாகமாக்கி, அதில் 4 பாகம் உடமஸ்தனுக்கும் 2 பாகம் கவர்ன்மென்டுக்கும் எடுப்பது கண்டப் பாட்டம். இந்த முறையைத்தான் எல்லாத்தரமான நிலங்களுக்கும் அனுஷ்டிக்கவேண்டும். ஆனால் இந்த முறைகளில் ஒன்றையும் அனுசரித்ததாகத் தெரியவில்லை. அதனால்தான் பாட்டத்துக்கும் விளைவுக்கும் ஏதொரு சம்மந்தமுமில்லாமல் போனது. பூராபாட்டம் கண்டபாட்டத்தைவிட அதிகப்படுகிறது. இதைவிட கூடுதல் பாட்டம் கொடுக்கவேண்டிய பாட்டங்களுமுண்டு. அவைகளில் கண்டப்பாட்டமானது மொத்த விளைவையே அடுத்திருக்கிறது. அநேகம் கேஸ்களில் கண்ட பாட்டம் நெல்லாக பிரிவுசெய்யும் விஷயத்தில் நில உடமஸ்தர்களுக்கு மீதி வருவது மிகமிகக்குறைவு. பொதுவாகச் சொல்லுமிடத்தில் ஒன்றுமே மீதி கிடையாது. பாட்டம் அல்லது பூராபாட்டம் நிச்சயித்ததின் பலனை நில

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[Mr. N. Boothalingam Pillai.]

உட்மஸ்தர்களை நிலமில்லாதவர்களைப் போலாக்குவதுமல்லாமல், மேலால் திருஷிசெய்ய சக்தியற்றவனாகிவிடுகிறார்கள். நான் கூறின விஷயங்கள் சமஸ்தானம் முழுவதிலுமுள்ள நிலங்களையும் பாதிக்கின்றதோடு, நாஞ்சநாட்டு திருஷிகர்களுக்கு விசேஷமாக பெரும் நஷ்டங்களும் கஷ்டங்களும் ஏற்படுத்துகின்றன.

ஸர், அளவைப்பற்றியும் எனக்கு ஒன்றிரண்டு வார்த்தைகள் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். நாஞ்சநாட்டு லைட்டில்மென்டுப் பிரகாரம் கவனிக்கும் போது, துறையளவு ஒரு பறைக்கு 14 ஸெண்டும், தானிய அளவை ஒரு இடங்கழி 80 குப்பி இஞ்சுகளென்றும் நிச்சயித்தார்கள். அப்படிப் பார்க்கும்போது ஒரு எக்காவுக்கு (100 ஸென்டிகளுக்கு) 7½ பறையாகும். ஆனால் 1061-ம் வருஷத்திய திருவெழுத்து ளம்பரத்திற்கு நேர்விபரீதமாக தரையளவையும், தானிய அளவையும் நாஞ்சநாட்டில் ஒரு கோட்டைக்கு ஒரு எக்றென்றும், ஒரு கோட்டை தானியத்திற்கு 9 பறை 3½ இடங்கழியென்றும் தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. நெற்காதலை பணமாக்கும்போது நாஞ்நாட்டுக் கோட்டைக்குப் பல முறுக்கல்கள்கொண்டு அளப்பதைப் பார்த்தி, கவர்ன்மென்டார் கோட்டைக்கு 8 பறை 6½ இடங்கழியாக கணக்காக்கி பணக்காம், மற்றும் வசூலாக்கிவந்தார்கள். இந்தமாதிரி கூடுதல் கரம் நாஞ்சநாட்டுக் திருஷிகளிடமிருந்து வசூலிக்கும் விஷயமாக கவர்ன்மென்டிடம் முறையிட்டும் பிரயோஜனப்படாமல், கடைசியாக நாங்கள் நமது திவான் ஸர் ஸி. பி. ராமஸ்வாமி ஐய்யர் அவர்களிடம் முறையிட்டு, கடைசியாக திவாஞ்சி அவர்களும் நாஞ்சநாட்டாரிடமிருந்து அதிகக் கரம் பிரிக்கப்படுகிறதென்று உணர்ந்து, எங்களுக்கு 20 சதமானம் குறைவு செய்துதந்தார்கள். அதற்காக நாஞ்சநாட்டார்களாகிய நாங்கள் நமது திவாஞ்சி அவர்களுக்கு சொல்லிலடங்காத நன்றியுள்ளவர்களாயிருக்கிறோம்.

நாஞ்சநாட்டில் இந்தப் பயிர்சாம்ப மோசமாயிருக்குமென்று நினைக்கிறோம். இதற்குக் காரணங்கள் பல. அதிகமழையினால் சில பயிர்கள் நாசமாயின. போதிய அளவுக்கு உரம் கிடைப்பதில்லை. பாட்டு உரத்தை உபயோகிக்கலாமென்றால், அதற்கும் வழியில்லாமல் போயிற்று. எங்கள் நன்செய்களுக்கு ஒருவித நோய் வந்து அவைகள் மடிந்தன. நாங்கள் வெட்டரிநரி டாக்டரைக்கொண்டு காட்டினோம். அந்த சமயத்தில் இந்த நோய்களுக்கு வேண்டிய மருந்துகள் அவரிடமில்லை. தற்போது மருந்துகள் வந்திருக்கின்றன என்று அறிந்தேன். ஆனால் மாடுகள் யாவும் மடிந்தன. மாடுகளை வெளியூர்களிலிருந்து வாங்கிக்கொண்டு வரலாமென்றாலோ, அதுவும் முடியாமலிருக்கிறது. நன்செய்களின் நிலை சொல்ல முடியாமல் ஏறிவிட்டது. உரத்திற்கு வேண்டியப் பிண்ணாக்கு முதலியன டிப்போக்களிலிருந்து சரியானபடி கொடுக்கப்படுவதில்லை. அந்திய நாட்டிலிருந்து பிண்ணாக்கையும் கொண்டுவர முடியாது. பலவிதங்களிலும் நாஞ்சநாட்டில் இப்பு மோசமாகிவிட்டது. மேலும் இந்தமாதிரி கஷ்டங்கள் வராமலிருக்க, வெட்டரிநரி டாக்டரிடம் போதிய அளவில் வேண்டிய மருந்துகளை முன்கூட்டியே கொடுக்கவும், டிப்போக்களில் போதிய உரம் திருஷிகர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்து உதவி செய்யவும் ஏற்பாடுகள் செய்ய கவர்ன்மென்டாரைக்கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன்.

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கம்போஸ்ட்மனியூர், பர்ட்டிலைஸர் முதலிய உரங்களைக் கிருஷிகர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்க டிப்போக்கள் திறந்திருப்பதைப்பற்றி சொம்ப சந்தோஷப்படுகிறேன்.

கடைசியாக, ஸர், எனக்குச் சொல்லவேண்டியது—குட்டநாட்டில் கிருஷியின் விளைவு கூடுதல். கரமோ மிகக் குறை. அதனால் ஸெட்டில்மென்டு பாட்டம் குறைவு. அதனால் முன் நோட்டிபிக்கேஷன் அனுசரித்து அவர்கள் அளக்கவேண்டுமென்றும், மற்றயிடங்களில் ஸெட்டில்மென்டு பாட்டப்பிரகாரம் அளக்கவேண்டுமென்றும் கவர்மென்டு நோட்டிபிக்கேஷன் ஒன்று பிறந்திருக்கிறது. எனது தாழ்மையான அபேக்ஷை என்னவென்றால்—நான் முன் சொன்னபடி ஸெட்டில்மெண்டில் பல விதியாசங்கள் இருப்பதினாலும், இந்தப் பூவில் நாஞ்சநாட்டில் விளைவு குறைவினாலும், குட்டநாட்டில் விளைவு கூடுதலாகவும், ஸெட்டில்மேண்டு பாட்டம் குறைவாகயிருப்பதையும் கருதி, குட்டநாட்டுக் கிருஷிகர்களுக்கு செய்து கொடுத்திருப்பதுபோல், நாஞ்சநாட்டாருக்கும் செய்துகொடுக்க, இந்த உத்தரவை புனராலோசனை செய்யக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

**Mr. V. Sankara Menon:** Sir, I shall begin by expressing my heartfelt thanksgiving to the Almighty for the turn the War has taken in favour of the Allies. Sir, on a previous occasion I said that, in addition to the material assistance that this State is rendering for the winning of the War, we must also pray incessantly, individually and collectively, for the successful termination of the War. It seems our prayers are heard or being heard. I hope and pray that very soon we will come to a successful end of the War.

In regard to the Budget of the current year I have to congratulate the Government and the Financial Secretary for the very encouraging programme of revenue and expenditure of the next year. I do not wish to go into the working of the several Departments of Government because I will have subsequent opportunities to do so.

But I may touch on the all-important question that is in the mind of the Government and the people at the present moment, namely, the food problem. I wish to state very definitely that this Government is doing and have been doing all that is possible for any Government in the world to help the people in regard to this problem now. I know the present Head of the Administration is devoting every moment of his precious time for solving this problem. Even now, when he is hearing me, I know, his mind is working for tackling this problem. I cannot see any reason for anybody to criticise the Government in view of the earnest endeavours of the Government in these matters.

With regard to the details of this problem I wish to make one suggestion, and that is, with regard to the distribution. The complaint is more in the matter of distribution than in the matter



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[Mr. V. Sankara Menon]

of production. You, Sir, are doing all that is possible to get the supply from outside the State. I do not think any more endeavour is possible in any manner for the same purpose. It seems to me that it is more in the matter of distribution that there is some confusion or difficulty. Because I want to close my speech very soon I would merely suggest one remedy. Government should open a certain number of Depots, at least in some of the Municipal areas, as an experimental measure, just to see whether this will lead to advantageous result in the matter of distribution. I would also say in this connection that it is not the price of rice alone that has gone high. The price of all condiments has gone very very high. I once said that the people of Travancore are accustomed to live a very simple life. With one chuckram divided into sixteen cash they will get all the necessaries. Now the price of chillies, tamarind, onion, etc., have risen very very high much more than what they were a few years back. I would, in this connection, suggest to the authorities who are doing all that they can to meet the present situation, to try and get these things from the sister Presidency of Madras. It seems there is some prohibition of the export of condiments from Madras. Tamarind is being used by everybody in the State. The export of that commodity is also prohibited.

These things must be got down by Government and the sales should be conducted through depots. That will ease the situation to some extent. I cannot but say that a better part should be played by the public at large in helping first to tide this difficult situation. It seems that the people have not got rid of their ideas of hoarding and speculation even at these difficult times. Recently I had occasion to read from the text-book of my daughter studying in the Preparatory Class about General Philip Sydney who was wounded in the battle field. He was offered a cup of water when he was about to die. He then saw another solidier near him in the same condition asking for water. That noble gentleman did not want to make use of that water himself, but ordered the same to be given to his comrade. I want those people who are blessed with intensive paddy fields etc,, to part with at least a portion of their paddy for the use of their less favoured brothers or neighbours. That would also go to ease the situation to some extent. I know that man is selfish by nature. That is evidenced in plenty in the matter of distribution. It is time that people should realise "പരോപകാരാർത്ഥം ഇദം ശരീരം." That should be understood and worked up by such people.

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**Mr. I. C. Chacko:** Sir, the honourable member Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar referred to the damages caused by the opening of the Periyar Sluice. I wish to explain the real position. The dam holds water for 152 feet height, and it is the surplus water that they send out when the water level in the Reservoir reaches the maximum level. Immediately the authorities there inform the various officers in the State. They are forced to open the sluice as soon as the maximum water level is reached. This year particularly, the rain-fall was very heavy.

**Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar:** May I know when is it that they open the sluice?

**Mr. I. C. Chacko:** When the water level reached 152 feet, they open the regulators. That is done because they can never allow the water level to rise more than 152 feet as that will damage the dam. No serious damage has been reported except slight overflow in one or two places. This year the rainfall being very high the river was full when the regulator were opened and this added to the water level in the lower regions. It is quite possible to minimise the damages with a better regulation of sluice gates. Anyhow the matter has been taken up with the Madras Government and everything possible will be done to minimise the damages.

Reference was made regarding the irrigation works in the State particularly with reference to the tanks in the Neyyattinkara taluk. There are about 700 and odd minor irrigation tanks in the Neyyattinkara Taluk and we have improved about 170 tanks. Most of these tanks are below one acre in extent and will hold only enough water for supplying the fields for one week or at the most two weeks. The cost of materials and labour has gone so high that it has become uneconomical to improve them at the present time for the sake of one week's supply.

**Mr. T. Krishna Pillai:** May I know whether the member realises the fact that if these tanks are left in a state of damaged condition it will seriously hamper paddy cultivation?

**Mr. I. C. Chacko:** But the responsibility for maintaining these minor irrigation tanks devolves upon the ryots. Government help can come in only when the tanks are damaged. Unlike ordinary public works the improvements of these tanks are carried out on a half contribution basis or on the system of levying a cess. Therefore, the ryots have to be consulted before any work is taken up. The formalities required by the Irrigation Act have to be gone through, and that will necessarily take some time.

**Mr. T. Krishna Pillai:** In view of the importance of the time, may I know whether these Rules will be modified or kept in abeyance for the time being?

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**Mr. I. C. Chacko:** Every year we are taking up about 25 to 30 tanks for improvement. The real difficulty is to get materials and labour. There is a rule that if the ryots come forward and form a local organisation and carry out the work, Government will give half-contribution to the ryots instead of the ryots having to pay to Government. So, unless the ryots also come forward and co-operate with the Government the progress is bound to be slow. In several cases lands have to be acquired. For that we will have to resort to the Land Acquisition Act and that also will take some time. In the Budget for 1119 there is a provision for the reconstitution of the Irrigation Division. An officer of the Executive Engineer's status will be put in charge of the Minor Irrigation Works and with the appointment of that Officer it is expected that we will be able to show much better progress with regard to these works.

**Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai:** Sir, the main question that was raised in the course of the general discussion of the Budget relates naturally to the question of Food Supply. At the very outset, I may be permitted to place before this House a few figures in relation to which this question might be considered. It was suggested by one of the honourable members, Mr. Kuruvilla, that although the officers responsible for the distribution of rice in his taluk were very efficiently doing the work, there was great discontent among the people. The reason will be seen from the following figures. The total production of paddy in paras may be estimated at 400 lakhs per annum and it would require nearly 1,000 lakhs of paras of paddy if we are to make a distribution on the basis of one nazhi of rice per head per diem. Oftentimes it has been asked by honourable members who have seen me on this matter as to what anybody could do with one nazhi of rice for an adult per day. It has been stated that workers, especially in the estates, find it extremely difficult to pull on with one nazhi of rice per day. But taking one nazhi of rice per head per day we would require a thousand lakhs of paras of paddy. Apart from that it may be remembered that the purchase system which we have followed has resulted in the acquisition of not more than 40 lakhs of paras of paddy; in other words one tenth of the total production, which total production itself would have lasted only for less than two months. If the entire production had been distributed, it would have lasted barely two months at the rate of one nazhi of rice per day per head. But we have got only 40 lakhs of paras of paddy. Even if it is half a nazhi per head per day, 40 lakhs of paras would not have lasted for more than a few weeks. It is, therefore, necessary to consider what additional stock Government have with which a reasonable quota may be allotted per head of

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population. In this connection it would be useful also to remember that 40 lakhs or 400 lakhs out of 1,000 lakhs or 10 percent. of our requirements may be said to be met by local production. It must be remembered that only 40 per cent. of the population can actually be fed by the 400 lakhs of total production for the simple reason that the bulk of it is in the hands of a very small proportion of the people, namely, the so-called big landholders. It is, therefore, necessary first to deal with the question of local purchase and secondly to see how much we can add to our food supply by imported rice. So far as purchase system is concerned, it was suggested here that even settlement pattom, which the Government have recently programmed, should not be treated as the basis. The honourable member, Mr. K. M. Kesavan, stated that the settlement pattom basis should not be applied. We tried some other basis on the last occasion and the House is fully aware of its result. We were not able to get more than 10 or 15 per cent of the total production which we might otherwise have got. We want at least some data which might be well known to the public at large to proceed upon. The settlement pattom is a document in regard to whose figures no discretion can be exercised by the village proverthicar or other members of the Pakuthy staff. It was mainly to redress the grievance ventilated on the floor of the House on the last occasion that the Government decided upon some such permanent record which is available to everybody, and on the basis of which we may proceed to collect our minimum quota. There may be cases of the fertility soil being affected by reason of weather conditions or failure of crops. These are exceptional cases which will be taken into account when the minimum quota is purchased.

**Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan :** കണ്ടെഴുത്തിക്കരത്തിന്റെ റേറ്റനുസരിച്ചാണോ നെല്ല് പിരിച്ചെടുത്തത്?

**Rajyaseyapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai:** What is stated there is the full assessment as stated in the Settlement Register.

So far as the additional quota that we have to get from outside is concerned, the House might be well aware of the statements which have been made by the Dewan-President elsewhere, copies of which have been placed in the hands of the honourable members. It might be stated that promises were made by the Food Department of the Madras Government, that during the months of May, June and July, a stock of nearly 82,000 tons of foodgrains would be given to us, the bulk of which was to be rice. While that promise was sought to be implemented, difficulty arose, of course, even to the Central Government to effect their very good intentions. Unfortunately it so happened that the areas from which this stock

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which had been diverted to the deficit States of Travancore and Cochin made it impossible for such diversion being made. The Central Government had a conference held at Bombay to revise the whole programme and later when it was found that they could not implement their original promise the Dewan himself went over to Delhi to attend the Conference which was held in the first week of July with a view to see what altered policy might be adopted to meet our immediate requirements and also to chalk out a policy for the future. At that conference the one stumbling block which stood in the fulfilment of the promise made by the Central Government was, in fact, removed through the strenuous effort of the Dewan. Nevertheless it has not yet become possible for us to say with any degree of assurance that their original intention will be capable of being fulfilled because many events have transpired since then and a Committee is sitting in New Delhi to decide upon a long-term policy. The one tangible fact that emerged since then is this. Although certain promises were made even at the last conference with regard to supply till November, that is, from August to November, it has not been possible for us to obtain that quota of rice as we would wish. Rice forms only a very small proportion of the total quantity of foodgrains that are available. We have been promised wheat, bajra and gram flour in plenty. By 'plenty', I do not mean that we will have beyond our requirements. We offer them to our people but because of the novelty of the stuff, they consider it to be a thing which they do not want, and therefore the balance might perhaps be plenty. Unfortunately we have to accustom ourselves to the taking in of these millets in very much larger quantities than before because without them, it will become almost impossible for Government to arrive at any sort of distribution which will give some sort of contentment. In this connection I may state that every effort is made by the Government to see that the distribution is made on an equitable basis. This evening a meeting of the Food Advisory Committee is being held in order to discuss the various aspects in relation to the question of distribution. All the suggestions which have been made by the honourable members will certainly be taken up for consideration at that meeting of the Committee and the results of the deliberation of that Committee will certainly be taken into serious consideration by the Government.

**Mr. T. Krishna Pillai** : May I know whether the Government have any information of agricultural harvest taking place now?

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**Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai:** It is reported that harvest has commenced in certain portions of Central and North Travancore and Government will take steps to supplement the arrangements they have already taken. In North Travancore, for instance, there is harvest on small acreages less than one or two acres. In central Travancore and Kunnathunad there have been cases where harvest has commenced. But it is not in a considerable extent and the local Tahsildars have been instructed to purchase the excess paddy on the basis of settlement pattom. Arrangements have been made in that direction. The entire difficulty with regard to the distribution, as I have already indicated, is with regard to the inadequacy of the stock available at the disposal of the distributing authorities. If the distributing authorities were entrusted with sufficient stock to give in the manner in which the Government would desire, there will be no difficulty.

**Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar:** May I know whether Government have finally settled upon the Settlement Pattom as the basis?

**Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai:** It is on the basis of the Settlement pattom. After all it is one-fourth of the total production.

**President:** The honourable member may perhaps give the percentage that is likely to be collected during the next harvest.

**Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai:** 103 lakhs of paras is what we expect as the yield if every thing goes well and every body including the honourable members of this House will assist Government in effectively carrying out this particular programme. We shall be getting only 100 lakhs of paras out of 400 lakhs of paras which we require, so that it is only 25 per cent of the total production. But the question of excess stock required still remains.

**President:** The House will now adjourn and meet again on Monday at 12 noon.

The House adjourned at 6 p. m.

B. PARAMU,
*Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council.*

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